

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital image processing apparatus for applying pixel-based color correction to an input image to generate an output image, said apparatus comprising:

a color correction logic module configured to apply varying degrees of color correction and to provide two or more color correction processes each having a respective associated locus in a color space and a respective associated color mapping operation; said two or more color correction processes are arranged as a succession of processes being sequential so that [[the]] results of a color correction process form an input to a next such process in said ~~succession~~ sequence; each of said two or more color correction processes detects whether each pixel lies within said respective locus in color space and, if so, applies said color mapping operation to ~~that~~ the pixel,

wherein; and once a first color correction process is performed on a particular pixel, each additional color correction process of said two or more color correction processes with respect to the particular pixel is limited to an extent dependent on a degree by which the first color correction process was applied thereby inhibiting color mapping in respect of loci associated with the first color correction process

~~each color correction process after a first process in said succession is configured to inhibit color mapping in respect of said loci associated with previous processes in said succession.~~

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, in which each of said color correction processes is carried out by a separate color correction processor.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, in which said locus in color space of at least one of said color correction processes includes a soft region, said soft region being subject to a partial color mapping operation.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, in which said color mapping operation of a subsequent process having a locus in color space overlapping with said soft region is only partially inhibited in a region overlapping said soft region.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, in which a degree of softness in a locus in color space may vary between a first degree of softness, being indicative that no color mapping will take place, and a second degree of softness, being indicative that complete color mapping will take place.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 5, in which color mapping by a color correction process is partially inhibited in respect of a region in color space in which a sum of all degrees of softness relating to that region in previous processes in said sequence lies between said first and second degrees of softness.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, in which color mapping in a process will be completely inhibited in respect of a region in color space in which said sum of all degrees of softness relating to that region in previous processes equals or exceeds said second degree of softness.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, in which each process is operable to detect a running total degree of softness applied by preceding processes

in respect of each position in color space, and to apply color correction to an extent no greater than a difference between said running total degree of softness and said second degree of softness.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of digital image processing for applying pixel-based color correction to an input image to generate an output image, said method comprising the steps of:

providing two or more color correction processes each having a respective associated locus in a color space and a respective associated color mapping operation;

arranging said color correction processes as a succession of processes so that results of a color correction process form an input to a next such process in said succession; and

detecting, in each color correction process, whether each pixel lies within said respective locus in color space and, if so, to apply said color mapping operation to ~~that the~~ the pixel,

wherein; and once a first color correction process is performed on a particular pixel, each additional color correction process of said two or more color correction processes with respect to the particular pixel is limited to an extent dependent on a degree by which the first color correction process was applied thereby inhibiting color mapping in respect of loci associated with the first color correction process

~~inhibiting, in each color correction process after said first process in said succession, color mapping in respect of said loci associated with previous processes in said succession .~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions, which when executed by a computer causes the computer to execute a method comprising:

providing two or more color correction processes each having a respective associated locus in a color space and a respective associated color mapping operation;

arranging said color correction processes being as a succession of processes so that results of a color correction process form an input to a next such process in said succession;

detecting, in each color correction process, whether each pixel lies within said respective locus in color space and, if so, to apply said color mapping operation to ~~that~~ the pixel,

wherein; and once a first color correction process is performed on a particular pixel, each additional color correction process of said two or more color correction processes with respect to the particular pixel is limited to an extent dependent on a degree by which the first color correction process was applied thereby inhibiting color mapping in respect of loci associated with the first color correction process

~~inhibiting, in each color correction process after said first process in said succession, color mapping in respect of said loci associated with previous processes in said succession.~~

Claims 11-13 (Canceled).